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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91210665
Party	Defendant Brand Builders Group Inc.
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Date	09/10/2013
Attachments	Opp.No.91210665_ZieglerAMENDEDAnswerNotOpposFINAL09-10-2013.pdf(1 19786 bytes)

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

JULIUS SAMANN LTD.,	) )
Opposer,	)
v.	) Opposition No. 91210665
DBA BRAND BUILDERS GROUP INC.,	) Appln. Serial No. 85/724,027 ) Mark: InstaLink
Applicant.	) ) 

### APPLICANT'S <u>AMENDED</u> ANSWER TO NOTICE OF OPPOSITION, AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Applicant, DBA Brand Builders Group, INC. ("Applicant"), files herewith an Applicant's Amended Answer in response to the decision to grant Opposer's Motion to dismiss the Fifth and Sixth Affirmative Defenses provided in Applicant's Answer filed June 24, 2013, to the Notice of Opposition filed May, 16, 2013, by Julius Samann, LTD ("Opposer"), against application for registration of Applicant's trademark "InstaLink" (the "Mark") for, *inter alia*, air deodorizers in Class 5 in Application Serial No. 85/724,027, filed September 8, 2012, which was published for opposition at page TM 274 of the February 26, 2013 *Official Gazette* of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO").

In answer to the Notice of Opposition, Applicant pleads and avers as follows:

Applicant denies knowledge and information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations of  $\P$  1.

- 1. Applicant denies knowledge and information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations of  $\P$  2.
- 3. Applicant denies knowledge and information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations of ¶3.
- 4. Applicant denies knowledge and information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations of ¶ 4.
- 5. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in  $\P$  5.
- 6. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 6
- 7. Applicant admits that, on September 8, 2012, Applicant filed an application under Section 1(b) of the Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. §1051(b), for registration of the alleged "InstaLink" trademark for "air deodorizer" in Class 5. Said application was assigned Serial No. 85/724,027
- 8. Applicant admits the facts stated in  $\P$  8.
- 9. Applicant admits the facts stated in  $\P$  9.
- 10. Applicant admits the facts stated in ¶ 10.
- 11. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 11.
- 12. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 12.
- 13. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 13.
- 14. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 14

#### Opposition No. 91210665

- 15. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 15.
- 16. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 16.
- 17. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 17.
- 18. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 18.
- 19. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 19.
- 20. Applicant denies each and every allegation contained in ¶ 20.

#### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

#### **First Affirmative Defense**

Opposer fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

#### **Second Affirmative Defense**

As a result of Applicant's continuous use of the Mark since the time of Applicant's adoption thereof, the Mark has developed significant goodwill among the consuming public and consumer acceptance of the services offered by Applicant in conjunction with the Mark. Such goodwill and widespread usage has caused the Mark to acquire distinctiveness with respect to Applicant, and caused the Mark to become a valuable asset of Applicant.

#### **Third Affirmative Defense**

There is no likelihood of confusion, mistake or deception because, *inter alia*, the Mark and the alleged trademark of Opposer are not confusingly similar.

Opposition No. 91210665

**Fourth Affirmative Defense** 

Alternatively, any similarity between the Mark and Opposer's alleged trademark is

restricted to that portion of the Mark consisting of the word "Link," which is not distinctive. As a result,

under the antidissection rule any secondary meaning Opposer may have in its alleged FRESH LINK

trademark is narrowly circumscribed to the exact trademark alleged and does not extend to any other

feature of the trademark beyond the word "FRESH."

WHEREFORE, Applicant prays as follows:

(a) this opposition be dismissed; and

(b) a registration for the term INSTA LINK be issued to the Applicant.

Dated: September 10, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,

/AndrewZiegler/

Andrew B. Ziegler

BRAND BUILDERS GROUP INC.

754 Rolling Hill Drive

River Vale, New Jersey 07675-6167

4

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing:

#### APPLICANT'S ANSWER TO NOTICE OF OPPOSITION, AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

was served on Opposer at Opposer's Attorney's address as listed in the records of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office this 10th day of September 10, 2013, by sending same, via First Class
mail, postage prepaid, to:

Roberta S. Bren Beth A. Chapman OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 Duke Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

#### CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

The undersigned certifies that this submission (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office via the Electronic System for Trademark Trials and Appeals (ESTTA) on this 10th day of September 10, 2013.

/GKevinTownsend/

G. Kevin Townsend 8612 Hidden Hill Ln. Potomac, MD 20854 609-240-7589 g.kevin.townsend@gmail.com